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# ANNUAL REPORT

To May, 1879.

TO THE MEMBERS OF

## THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART.

The Trustees of the Association for the year ending May, 1879, respectfully report :

The receipts during the year have been as follows :

|   |             |           |
|---|-------------|-----------|
| Cash on hand at the beginning of the year.... | \$615 16    |           |
| Subscriptions to Fund, paid in.....           | 3,000 00    |           |
| Annual Subscriptions.....                     | 3,232 00    |           |
| Exhibition, Entrance-money.....               | \$780 50    |           |
| Sales of Catalogues.....                      | 227 45      |           |
| Sales of Photographs.....                     | 66 25       | 1,074 20  |
| Department of Public Parks :                  |             |           |
| on account of Appropriation—                  |             |           |
| Maintenance for 1878.....                     | \$8,941 09  |           |
| Maintenance for 1879.....                     | 5,144 27    |           |
| Equipment for 1879.....                       | 614 28      | 14,699 64 |
| Receipts for the year.....                    | \$22,621 00 |           |

The expenditures have been as follows :

|   |            |             |
|---|------------|-------------|
| Rent.....   | \$6,875 00 |             |
| General Expenses.....                               | 5,442 59   |             |
| Salaries.....                                       | 2,450 00   |             |
| Fire-Insurance.....                                 | 248 05     |             |
| Gas and Coal.....                                   | 786 40     |             |
| Printing, Catalogues, Photographs, Stationery, etc. | 374 46     |             |
| Alterations and Repairs.....                        | 134 45     | \$16,310 95 |
| Interest.....                                       |            | 1,406 83    |
| Castellani Collection, (balance).....               |            | 160 01      |
| MacCallum Collection of Laces, etc.....             |            | 2,445 00    |
| Equipment of New Building.....                      |            | 832 15      |
| Show-cases.....                                     |            | 37 90       |
| Loans Paid.....                                     |            | 205 25      |
| Cash on hand, May 1, 1879.....                      |            | 1,222 91    |
|   |            | \$22,621 00 |

The present financial condition of the Museum is as follows:

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Total Subscriptions to Fund, paid.....        | \$324,675 06        |
| Donations of Works of Art, value.....         | 74,245 50           |
| Loans Payable.....                            | 3,300 00            |
|   | <u>\$402,220 56</u> |
| Paid for Paintings, Drawings, etc.....        | \$145,494 74        |
| Works of Art, Donations....                   | 74,245 50           |
| Cesnola Collections (\$17,000 still due)..... | 121,866 98          |
| MacCallum Collection of Laces, etc.....       | 2,445 00            |
| Kensington Reproductions.....                 | 3,160 76            |
| Etchings.....                                 | 3,248 39            |
| Equipment of New Building, (balance).....     | 217 87              |
| Show-cases.....                               | 9,220 15            |
| Furniture.....                                | 1,432 84            |
|   | <u>\$361,332 23</u> |
| General Expenses and Repairs (balance).....   | 39,665 42           |
| Cash on hand, May 1st, 1879.....              | 1,222 91            |
|   | <u>\$402,220 56</u> |

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has been in existence nine years. It was incorporated in April, 1870. These nine years have advanced the young Institution to a position of vastly greater power and prosperity than its most ardent well wishers could have expected in such brief time. Its collections have been purchased without a dollar of public aid. They are the gift of a small number of persons, forming the membership of the Museum, to the millions of inhabitants of the City and State. The labors of the Museum, which have been constant and arduous, have been carried on by Trustees in person, who have freely given their time to the Institution; and, it is not improper to add, these Trustees have contributed to the funds of the Institution and the purchases of its present valuable collections, about one-fourth of the entire amount expended.

With the close of last month the tenancy of the Fourteenth Street building ceased, and the Corporation to-day holds its first meeting in the building erected for its occupation in Central Park.

The last year has been one of marked progress in the work of the Museum. The Loan-Collection has been, as heretofore,

indebted to citizens who have enabled the Trustees to exhibit a large number of important works of art in various departments.

The Museum has received, in addition, a fine collection of Laces and Embroideries, purchased at a cost of \$2,445, and presented to the Institution by a generous lady who is unwilling that her name be mentioned.

At the beginning of the past year the Trustees made a final and satisfactory settlement of their accounts with Signor Castellani, growing out of the loan of his collections to the Museum. The Castellani Collection of Majolica was sold at public auction in Paris during the Exposition in the Summer of 1878, realizing a gross sum of about \$80,000. Deducting the expenses of transport, and the customary tax and auction expenses in Paris, the net result to the owner was somewhat less than \$60,000, the sum estimated to be its value by the Trustees. His original price was \$150,000, from which he never varied. The propriety of our estimate, which has been much commented on, seems to be proved by the result of a public sale under the most favorable circumstances.

The Trustees are frequently subjected to pressures to induce them to ask the public for money for purchases of collections of works of art. There are various collections now for sale in Europe and America, which have been strongly urged upon the Museum. Some of these are exceedingly valuable, while others are, as was the Castellani Collection, valuable but held at prices vastly above their worth. In an institution like this, whose purchases are made entirely with money of generous friends, the trustee is trustee for the donor, and must have strict regard to the proper use of his gift.

The number of visitors to the Museum during the last year was 29,932 : of whom 26,137 entered free, and 3,795 paid for admission. Also 319 free tickets were issued to art-students and used by them during the year. The total number of visitors to the Museum during six years, from 1873 to 1879, has been 353,421.

The Trustees desire again to direct attention to the visible results already produced by the establishment of this Museum and its exhibitions of works of art. Without detailing the

changes which have taken place in this city, state and country, it is only necessary to observe the present condition of art-education, art-manufactures, art-importations and art-sales. These will furnish a measure of the present estimate placed on artistic products, the present love of art in households and among individuals in the length and breadth of the land. The date of the commencement of this love of fine art was instantly after the opening of the exhibitions of the Museum. The founding of this Institution and its early success, led to the founding of similar institutions in other cities, and to numerous local exhibitions of specimens of beautiful work gathered out of old families, instructing the new generation and surprising them with the evidence that their ancestors had possessed higher love of beauty than they had inherited from them. Nine years ago the importation for sale of the higher classes of artistic work in tissues, potteries and decorative objects in general, was comparatively small. To-day the merchants of New York are selling these works in all departments of art, and there is no city where more costly and beautiful objects are sold to private purchasers. As this demand for foreign works began and increased, the consequent impulse to domestic manufactures became visible. The advance in American products of the beautiful has been very great. Employment is given to hundreds of women and children in departments of industry unknown here a few years ago. The windows of the establishments on our principal shopping streets afford to every one who possesses a ten year old memory, the evidence of what this Museum of Art has accomplished for commerce, for industry, for the value of real estate, for the business-interests of New York and other cities, and abundant indications of civilizing, refining and ennobling influences which have been introduced into homes.

But while thus congratulating ourselves on what has been accomplished by the money and labor of the small number of ladies and gentlemen composing the Museum of Art, the reflection cannot be avoided that much more might have been accomplished had our fellow-citizens appreciated the value of such an institution, and contributed liberally to its treasury. The success attained by its work has seemed to convey the im-

pression to the public that this Museum is a rich institution which needs nothing from the citizens of New York. When valuable collections of antiquities, or other objects, have been offered for sale by dealers, advice has been freely offered to purchase them, but these recommendations have not been accompanied with the means for the purchase. It cannot be too distinctly stated, that the Museum has made its purchases hitherto with money contributed by a few—having no funds on hand, that it needs increased membership and larger means, that resort to begging money for new purchases is a thankless task which has hitherto been executed with pain, and has invariably ended in a private subscription among the Trustees and a few Members to supplement the insufficient contributions obtained.

Recently the Trustees undertook to raise a fund of \$150,000 for the Museum: this effort is now in progress. The objects to which it is proposed to devote such a sum are stated in the printed appeal made to citizens, and which is annexed hereto at page 150. With increased means the influence for good of the Museum of Art will be largely increased. As a direct aid to commerce and industry, what has been done in the past is ample to indicate what will be accomplished by the Museum in the future.

As an Educational Institution its value is great. The attention of scholars has been widely attracted to our collections. They have been discussed in the periodicals of every nation in Europe. Students in all departments of art-history and the history of man, find in them new funds of illustration and information. The Cesnola Collection is of necessity the place of pilgrimage of all who are interested in early Grecian and Phœnician history, literature and art. To this should be added collections of art of all nations, ancient and modern, for American students. Industrial arts should be here shown in the most plain and accessible manner, so that boy or girl, man or woman, may see the whole process of manufacturing metals from the ore to the most beautiful products of art in metal, from the rough wood to the beautiful fabrics of household-ornament and use, from the raw hide to the exquisitely tooled book-binding or the

beautiful harness. Every apprentice should find here the teaching his eye needs, whatever his department of labor. Every skilled mechanic should find here the beautiful object which it must be his ambition to equal. Every workman who handles a prepared material should be able to come here and see what the material is originally and by what processes it has reached the useful condition in which he handles it.

Such an institution would be a pride to the State, conferring as great benefits as any college, supplementing the education of free schools, academies and colleges as well as that of the workshop. Such an institution would emphatically "pay." The Metropolitan Museum of Art has already 'paid.' It has paid during the past six years many hundred thousand dollars into the hands of workmen, women and children in decorative employments unknown a few years ago and increased art-industries, many more hundred thousand dollars into the pockets of importers, merchants, manufacturers and real estate owners. It would pay many fold still with that proper support to which it is entitled as one of the educational institutions of the state. European governments well understand the money-value and the educational value of such museums. France thoroughly appreciates the fact that art-attractions have made Paris the great centre of resort. New York is to-day a city of wealth and luxurious expenditure rivaling any city of Europe. But its attractions to strangers as a place of resort and rest, have been neglected. It is certainly time for the City and State to recognize the value of institutions like this.

The Trustees congratulate the Members on the removal of the Museum to the Building in Central Park. This removal was accomplished during the months of March and April, by a committee of the Trustees who gave their personal attention, and handled nearly every delicate object with their own hands, packing them at Fourteenth Street and unpacking them in the Park. By this means the many thousand fragile objects in the collections were safely transferred, not a single object being broken. The articles have been carefully deposited in the Building while the work of preparing show-cases is going forward.

The Legislature, in the session of 1877-78, authorized the

Board of Apportionment to include in the tax-levy of the years 1879 and 1880, a sum not to exceed \$30,000 in each year, for the equipment and furnishing of the Building, and the removal and establishment of the Museum in it. The first sum of \$30,000 is now available and will enable the Trustees to open the Museum in the Fall, with an arrangement of show-cases sufficient to hold the most important collections ; but it will be far from enough to establish the collections in position and furnish the building properly for their exhibition. With strict economy, the second appropriation of \$30,000 will be adequate to complete the work.

The building in which we now find ourselves located, was designed by the architect of the Park Commissioners and built under their direction. The appropriation for the building was \$500,000, and it has been completed within that amount, leaving a small balance for alterations and additions. The Commissioners of Parks have been anxious to do all in their power to meet the wishes of the Trustees, who desire to acknowledge the courtesy with which their suggestions have been received. The exterior of the building has been much criticised, but it must be borne in mind that it is part of a larger structure, and that every addition to the building will tend to harmonize the whole edifice.

The large hall on the lower floor of the building, has been devoted to the purposes of an Industrial Art-Collection, which will form an important feature of the Museum in its permanent home, and for which there has hitherto been no room. Arrangements have been now made by which an immediate commencement of the Industrial Collections has been secured, and by the time of the re-opening in the Fall, it is hoped that a good assortment will already have been obtained.

The subject of Industrial Art-Schools has engaged the anxious attention of the Trustees. A gentleman of large means, leisure and experience, with whom the subject has been a study for years, has kindly offered to assist the projected schools with money, time, and the result of his experience. With his valuable aid, no doubt is felt of a prosperous beginning to this attempt to supply a long felt want.

The second Cesnola Collection, has heretofore remained unseen with the exception of that small part of it known as the



Curium Temple Treasures. This second Collection is now incorporated with the first Cesnola Collection. The plan of arrangement in the new building has been with the Trustees a subject of much labor, and now that the entire collections are actually in the main hall of the building, it is manifest that it will be difficult to avoid crowding too greatly the valuable Cypriote specimens, preventing their accessibility to students and injuring their interest to general visitors if justice is done to the other collections.

Already therefore it is manifest that the building in the Park is not large enough for the accommodation and proper exhibition of the collections of the Museum, supplemented as these must be by permanent loan-collections of objects belonging to citizens. The Museum can never so well illustrate contemporay art as by loan-collections, and there is no reason to doubt that hereafter in a fire-proof building, with fine facilities for exhibition, we shall find the generous kindness of our fellow-citizens in lending their ever increasing treasures for public exhibition even more freely than in the past, and consequently requiring more and more room for their exhibition.

The plan of the extensive building of which the present structure is the beginning, includes an extension by wings, running north and south, from the present building. These wings can be added from time to time without large expenditures. The necessity of an additional wing is already evident. The subject of applying to the Legislature for the means to extend the building, in such way as shall accommodate the necessities of the Museum, is commended to the attention of the Members.

The Trustees have entered the new building which is to be the permanent home of the Museum, with the warmest wishes for, and the utmost confidence in the future power for good of the institution under their care. New plans of usefulness, and new departments of art-illustration are now rendered possible.

Among the most important features of the new plans is the establishment of a Directorship, and the election of General L. P. di Cesnola to this position. It is unnecessary that the Trustees introduce him to the Members, who already know his distinguished abilities. Under his charge as Director, the Trus-

tees feel assured that the interests of the Museum will be guarded, and its influence greatly extended. But neither Director nor Trustee can insure the successful progress of the institution without the lively interest and co-operation of Members in furthering the objects of the Museum and the hearty support of the public. With this support, if the progress of the first nine years of the infant institution be in any degree an index of the possibilities of the years to come, some of us may live to see the Metropolitan Museum of Art the equal in collections of educational and civilizing power, of similar institutions in Europe.

By order,

JOHN TAYLOR JOHNSTON,

Museum Building, Central Park,

*President.*

*May 12, 1879.*

## CIRCULAR DATED APRIL 14, 1879.

The collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art are now removed from the temporary quarters in Fourteenth Street, to the new and commodious fire-proof building in Central Park, erected by the city.

The Museum possesses the Cesnola Collection of antiquities from Cyprus, with the "Curium" treasures, which are unique and of rare educational value. It has in addition valuable paintings, marbles and other articles of real artistic merit. The Trustees have lately acquired the McCallum Collection of laces, and are now in treaty for various other objects, which, if secured, will add great value to the exhibition.

As New York is the commercial centre, so it should be the art-centre of the United States. The character of the City, its attractions as a place of resort and trade, and the resulting value of property within its limits, all are dependent on institutions like this. The Trustees rely on the appreciation of these truths by their fellow-citizens. They desire, when they re-open the Museum in the Park Building, to increase the power and influence of the Institution by methods like the following:

To form, as heretofore, loan-collections of Pictures, Statuary, and other objects of art, similar to the practice of the Kensington Museum.

To obtain carefully selected series of Casts of antique and modern sculpture for the use of art-students.

To increase and perfect its collection of Antiquities and archæological specimens.

To make large additions to the collection of Pottery and Porcelain.

To purchase Architectural Models, with Casts of valuable examples.

To establish a collection exhibiting the progress and position of the Industrial Arts. To include in compact form in each department, the raw material, the material in process of manufacture, and the completed work, with models or samples of the tools and machinery used. This collection to comprise among

other articles, Gems, Gold and Silver Work, Bronzes and other Metal-work, Household-Decorations, such as Paper-Hangings, Pressed Leather, Furniture, etc., Textile Fabrics, Book-binding, Laces, Dyes, Stained Glass, etc.

To carry out these and other like purposes, the Trustees ask from the citizens of New York the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars : subscription to be payable when one hundred thousand dollars shall have been subscribed, with the understanding that the first general application of the money will be—

To purchase the Avery Collection of Porcelain.

To buy the King Collection of Gems.

To purchase Casts.

To purchase Architectural Models.

To purchase Archæological Antiquities.

To purchase examples of Fabrics, and start a School of Design for the Arts and Trades.

To establish a system of Prize-Medals or Awards.

To create a fund for Lectures on Art.

Subscribers may designate, if they so desire, the objects to which their donations shall be applied. Subscriptions can also be made payable, one-half in the present year, and one-half in 1880.

For some years past the Museum has been without funds for the purchase of objects, constantly offered. Boston, Philadelphia, and other cities, have institutions liberally supplied with funds by their citizens, and have been able to purchase, even in New York, objects which ought to have become our own.

The annual expenses of the Museum have been met only by strict economy, and occasional making up of deficiencies by the Trustees and friends of the Institution. The labor of carrying on the Museum has been willingly done by the Trustees, who have given to it their best energies ; and they now ask for the means of extending its usefulness, keeping it on an advanced footing, and making it worthy of the Metropolis of the Union.